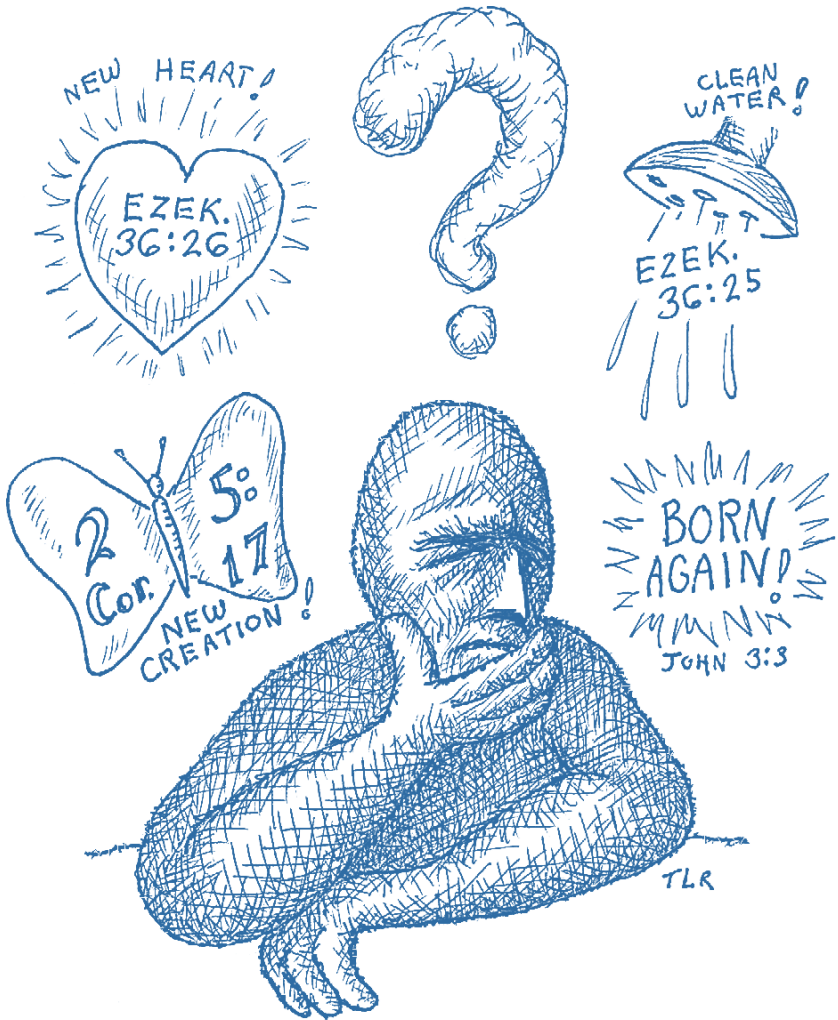


QUESTIONS ON THE NEW BIRTH



VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH OF ARMAGH, PA
FEBRUARY 26TH, AD 2023

The LORD'S Day

The Twenty-sixth Day of February, *in the Year of our Lord 2023*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



Sunday School—9:30 AM.

We are looking at the basic principles of the Reformation as a backdrop to our study on the views of Martin Luther with regard to the doctrine of sovereign predestination.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"I Love to Tell the Story"* (#190, chorus only).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"Christ Liveth in Me"* (#191).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:17-32.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Happiness is to Know the Savior"* (#221).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"Dwelling in Beulah Land"* (#198).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *"QUESTIONS ON THE NEW BIRTH."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Blessed Assurance"* (#197).

Benediction.*



**The Congregation will please arise, if able.*



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Also check out our YouTube Channel (search "Terry Reese")!



Week of Feb. 19 - Feb. 25

Sunday School—**6**; Midweek—**4**

Morning Worship—**17**; Weekly Offering—**\$445.00**

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—6:30 PM.

Daniel 5: Once again, the "wise men" of Babylon prove unsuccessful in discerning Divine wisdom!



UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

- ✓ **March 13-16:** Pastor Reese attending Mid-Year Conservative GBC Pastor's meeting at Mansfield, OH and serving on Jordan Bradley's Ordination Exam.
- ✓ **March 26:** Gideon Sunday; Special Speaker: Brother Scott Lynch of the Fayette North Gideon Camp.
- ✓ **Palm Sunday, April 2:** Threefold Communion; 3 PM.
- ✓ **April 1:** Several from our church will be attending the fundraising event at Cambria County Christian School
- ✓ **April 8:** CEF Wordless Book Activity & Easter Egg Hunt at the church, 10 AM. Invite friends & share on Facebook!
- ✓ **April 9:** Easter Sunday. Tentative Schedule: Early Service at 8 AM, Coffee & Donut Fellowship 8:30 AM, Morning Worship 9:30-10:30.
- ✓ **May 13:** Pastor Reese serving as Moderator at area Conservative Grace Brethren Conference (Greenville Twp.)

The NEW BIRTH: What it IS and IS NOT

(Pastor Terry L. Reese; Valley GBC of Armagh, PA; 2/24/23)

A. What this change is NOT: it is *not* the work of man!

1. The New Birth is NOT procured by **church ordinances**. Simon Magus was water-baptized—and *unregenerate!* (Acts 8:13,20-23).

2. A **good education** is *not* regeneration. Education may serve to restrain men's lusts—but cannot change their innermost hearts. A wolf in chains is restrained from causing harm—but it is *still* a wolf!

3. **Natural progress in outward maturity** is *not* the new birth. As men progress in age, they often turn from youthful indiscretions and outwardly embrace a more respectable lifestyle. However, such self-reformation is *not* redemptive change nor regeneration!

4. **Zeal & regularity in religious observance** is *not* the new birth. One may engage in all the **outward duties of religion**—and yet remain utterly lost & unregenerate (Acts 26:4-5, Matt. 23:15)!

5. The New Birth isn't simply a "flash-in-the-pan" emotional "**experience**" that eventually fades into oblivion (Matt 13:20-21, 1John 2:19). Many persons momentarily experience the pangs of a troubled conscience—only to return to their own "vomit" (2 Pet. 2:22): cf., Pharaoh, Esau, Simon Magus, Felix, Judas, etc.

B. What this change IS. This change is *real & profound*—a man is literally transformed by God into a **new creature** (2 Cor. 5:17)!

1. Regeneration results in a **change of qualities**, or **dispositions** (Eph. 4:22-24, Gal. 5:17-24, Rom. 6:1-14).

2. It is a **supernatural** change. He who is born again is *born of the Spirit* (John 3:5). Man cannot effect this change (Jer. 13:23)—but the God who raises the spiritually dead *can* (Ezek. 36:26, John 1:13)!

3. It is a change into the **Likeness of Christ** (2 Cor. 3:18), which is God's eternal plan for His elect (Rom. 8:29).

4. It is an **entire & extensive change**: the **whole man** (mind, will, soul, etc.) is regenerated (2 Cor. 5:17: "*All things become new...*").

5. It brings a **new freedom** from sin (John 8:34-36; Rom. 6:16-18)!

6. It is **irreversible**—it is a **permanent & lasting change** (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Philip. 1:6, Rom. 8:29-30).

7. The **agent of regeneration**: the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23). God appoints *means* that attend His Divine activity: evangelism (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 10:13-15) and prayer (Rom. 10:1; 1Tim. 2:1).